

REMARKS

Claims 2-13 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 2-13 are amended.

Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 5-7 and 13 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under §112 and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

I. THE SPECIFICATION

The Office Action objects to the specification on the grounds that it fails to address how the drives (18,19) drive the spindle/nut system (20,21). It is respectfully submitted that the specification provides sufficient teaching at paragraph [0045] which indicates that the bearing block 17 bears drives 18, 19. The drives 18,19 drive the spindle/nut system via shafts and angular gear mechanisms. Thus, withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

II. THE CLAIMS MEET THE REQUIREMENT OF 35 U.S.C. §112

The Office Action objects to claims 4 and 6-13 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, and claims 2-13 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to claims 2-13 obviate these rejections. Thus, withdrawal of the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 is respectfully requested.

III. CLAIMS 2-4 AND 8-12 DEFINE PATENTABLE SUBJECT MATTER PURSUANT TO 35 U.S.C §102

The Office Actions rejects claims 2-4 and 8-12 under 35 U.S.C. 102 as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,979,212 to VanderZee (hereinafter "VanderZee"). The

rejection is respectfully traversed.

VanderZee discloses a system for rotation of cross bars in a multiple station transfer press. However, in contrast to the claimed invention, VanderZee does not show an independent apparatus for each forming stage (8,9) as illustrated in the Applicants' invention. The independent transporting apparatus 2 of the forming station 8 (See Fig. 1) has no connection to the independent transporting apparatus 2 of the forming station of 9. Thus, as recited in claim 1, the invention provides for a separately driven transfer of each die stage such that work pieces can undergo an optimum change in position adapted to each instance. Thus, as described at page 4, line 4, several axes of movement are described. In contrast, VanderZee only shows a two-axes transfer with transfer rails 38, 40 being positioned through the whole apparatus and connecting all the forming stations (See Fig. 1 of VanderZee). Further, in VanderZee, all of the cross-members 130 are connected only to two transfer rails 38, 40 and not to an independent transporting apparatus for each forming station.

In addition, claim 2 recites that the disengageable cross-member is pivotably mounted to the independent transporting apparatus and that the sucker crossmember is movably mounted on the disengageable cross-member. VanderZee does not disclose this configuration.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that VanderZee fails to disclose the features of claim 2 as described above. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §102 is respectfully requested. Further, it is respectfully submitted that dependant claims 3-13 are likewise distinguishable over the applied art for at least the reasons described above in connection with claim 2. Therefore withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-13 under 35 U.S.C. §102 is respectfully requested.

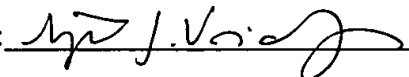
IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnest solicited. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary to expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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